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Letter dated 2 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you to express our indignation and deep disappointment at the latest anti-Semitic remarks by Mahmoud Abbas, the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, and request that you condemn his statements.

During an address to the Palestinian National Council on 30 April, Chairman Abbas expressed support for the most hateful racist conspiracies historically spread about the Jewish people. He claimed that the genocide perpetrated against our people during the Holocaust was not a consequence of hatred and anti-Semitism but of Jewish "social behaviour, [charging] interest, and financial matters".

Mr. Abbas then went on to further promote discredited historical fiction by saying that "those who sought a Jewish state weren't Jews". This claim was a dangerous attempt by the Chairman to rewrite history and claim that the Zionist movement was a result of a European conspiracy, rather than the millennia-old realization of the Jewish people's prayers to return to our historic homeland in the Land of Israel.

This is not the first time Mr. Abbas has spouted such hateful rhetoric. Just this past January, in an address to the Palestine Liberation Organization's Central Committee, he declared that the re-establishment of the nation-state of the Jewish people in our historic homeland is "a colonial project [that] has nothing to do with Judaism". He also accused European powers of "moving Jews from Europe to the Middle East" as part of a plan to further their economic interests.

It would seem that little has changed since Mr. Abbas wrote his Holocaust-denying 1982 doctoral dissertation, entitled "The other side: the secret relationship between Nazism and Zionism", that denied the scope of the Nazi crimes against our people.

Such a hateful diatribe against a people who have undergone thousands of years of intolerable persecution, is completely unacceptable. I call on all leaders of good faith to condemn these repeated hateful remarks and demand a full and sincere apology from Mr. Abbas. The Security Council must not stand idly by in the face of this incitement and apparent denial of Israel's right to exist.

For there to be true progress towards peace in our region, the Palestinians will need leaders who are committed to promoting hope and seeking a better future, rather than peddling in hate and inciting bigotry. We hope that this day comes soon.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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